THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) While liberalisation and globalisation have exposed the small scale sector to greater competition, promoting and safeguarding the interest of Small Scale Industries (SSI) has been one of the conscious policies of the Government. Government have been constantly monitoring the impact of the removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) on the economy including on the SSI Sector and an Inter-Ministerial Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary to continuously assess the impact of removal of quantitative restrictions and to suggest suitable corrective measures. In addition, a comprehensive Policy Package has been announced on 30th August, 2000 to strengthen the small industries sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally which *inter-alia* includes easier access to credit, marketing support, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Workshop on Ozone Depleting Substance

4654. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Industries Service Institute Organised one day awareness workshop on 'ozone depleting substances' at Balangar, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh in March, 2002;

(b) if so, what have been recommendations of the workshop; and

(c) the steps being taken to bring about awareness of depleting ozone substances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No specific recommendations were made as the workshop aimed at creating awareness and providing information about various aspect of phasing out of Ozone Depleting Substances. Organising of such workshops has been a regular activity. So far, thirty awareness programmes have been organised in various parts of the country.

Expansion/Development of SSI in Rural Areas

4655. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for expansion and development of small scale industries in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals for the above purpose; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Promotion of Small Scale Industries (SSIs) has been one of the conscious policies of the Government. Special thrust is given for rural areas through the schemes like the Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) Scheme, and the National Programme on Rural Industrialization (NPRI).

Steps to make Indian Space Programme Self-dependent

†4656. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Governmental and private users of the Indian satellites set up in space at present and the revenue earned by Government therefrom alongwith the details of the expenditure incurred on these satellites; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.